1	2	3	4	5	6
33.	Delhi	21,68,894	13,42,125	5,72,116	
		18.33%	25.29%	29.15	
34.	Lakshadweep	6,876	4,897	—	6,712
		13.34%	19.53%		13.86%
35.	Pondicherry	1,60,819	1,12,181	42,015	—
		18.76%	26.10%	30.88%	
	All India	30,41,02,917	19,34,79,064	6,24,03,320	3,63,79,192
		35.16%	46.33%	45.31%	52.90%

Shortage of teachers in primary and middle schools

171. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is facing a shortage of about eight lakh teachers in primary and middle schools;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is because of non availability of qualified teachers or not making appointments;

(d) what steps are being taken to tackle the problem; and

(e) whether there is any scheme to reduce the shortage in a phased manner; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) The States/UTs receive assistance under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme for recruitment of teachers to new primary and upper primary schools and to improve teacher pupil ratios in existing schools. Since inception 12.28 lakh teachers have been sanctioned under SSA. Another 6 lakh teachers are projected for the remaining part of the Eleventh Plan.

Drop-out rate of SC/ST and girl students

172. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the overall SC/ST/girl student dropout rate at primary stage from classes I-V;

(b) the improvement achieved during the past four years; and

(c) whether rural urban divide has been noticed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) As per data available with the Ministry, the drop out rate at primary stage (classes I-V) of SC, ST and girl students has reduced from 41.5%. 51.4% and 33.7% in 2002-03 to 32.9%, 39.8% and 21.8% respectively in 2005-06.

(c) The rural and urban divide of the drop out rate is not available.

Pension and Gratuity facilities to Navodaya Vidyalaya employees

†173. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to give facilities of pension, gratuity, etc. to Navodaya Vidyalaya employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details as to the reasons why Government is not able to remove the said anomaly despite specific recommendations of a Parliamentary Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Government of India has approved implementation of the New Pension Scheme of Government of India to all new employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) with an option to the existing employees to continue with the existing CPF scheme or to join the New Pension Scheme. The payment of the gratuity to eligible employees of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti are being made according to Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Payment of Gratuity Rule 2007.

Quality of Government schools

174. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ramamurthy Committee had recommended that the quality of all Government schools be enhanced to transform them into genuine neighbourhood schools and simultaneously making private schools freely accessible; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard so that the premise made by the Kothari Commission that the children of the masses are compelled to receive sub-standard education, while economically privileged parents are able to buy good education, could be adequately taken care of in view of substantial funds allocated in the Eleventh Five Year Plan to improve quality of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.